



Our dream is to let God use us to build a spiritual home for all the "spiritually homeless" in this county.

## How to Build a Home: The Foundation

What have you done in your home to build a spiritual foundation?

What does it mean to make God and his Word your foundation?

*In the passage we will consider today, the idea of making God my foundation and fully depending on him as the foundation for my home comes to a practical head in the command for the Israelites to return to God a tenth of their income. The practice is known as tithing and before we read the passage, let's just talk about it for a moment.*

Tithing is a contentious and controversial topic for some Christians. I've already had a number of interesting debates with people regarding it. Why do you think Christians get in such strong disagreements about it?

*One more thing before we read the passage: A lot of the tithe debate centers on whether Old Testament Law is still binding on Christians today. My answer is that even if parts of it are not binding on Christians today, it's all still applicable. There are lessons to be learned from everything in the Bible. Double-check 2 Timothy 3:16-17 if you need confirmation of this.*

Read Deuteronomy 26:1-15. What do you think about that?

What do you learn about God from the passage?

What do you learn about the firstfruits/tenth/tithe?

The tithe was not to be understood as a tax or an obligation. It was always from the beginning a recognition of God's provision. It was sacred because God had set it apart as the portion to highlight his provision. In fact, everything about this passage highlights the incredible grace of God to bring the tither and his family to their current state.

## Take it Home

In light of all that God has provided, why is giving our first and our best to God so hard?

Tithing provides the financial foundation of trust and dependence on God. What benefits come to a family/individual who fully trusts God in all things?



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